



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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In reply, please refer to:  
File:

August 27, 2025

**MEDICAL ADVISORY: MEASLES VIRUS DETECTED IN WEST HAWAII COUNTY  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**

- Measles virus was detected in wastewater at a West Hawai'i County Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) in a sample collected on Aug. 11, 2025. The virus was not detected in a subsequent sample.
- Providers should be vigilant to the possibility of measles in persons presenting with signs and symptoms clinically compatible with measles in persons who reside or may have visited West Hawai'i County during the month of August and should take appropriate actions.

Dear Healthcare Provider:

The Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) was notified on Aug. 26, 2025 by the County of Hawai'i Department of Environmental Management that measles virus was detected in wastewater at a West Hawai'i County Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) in a sample collected on Aug. 11, 2025 indicating a person (or persons) residing in or visiting the community may have been shedding the measles virus. Providers should be vigilant to the possibility of measles in persons presenting with signs and symptoms clinically compatible with measles in persons who reside or may have visited West Hawai'i County during the month of August.

Testing for measles is done at this West Hawaii County WWTF and other wastewater treatment sites across the state to provide an additional means for early detection and response to the presence of measles in the community. Detection of the virus can serve as an early warning signal but cannot prove that an infectious case is present. Testing for measles at the WWTF where the detection occurred is done weekly. Measles virus was not detected in samples from the facility collected in the week prior to and after Aug. 11, 2025. No other detections have been reported at other WWTFs in the state of Hawai'i. To date in 2025, no suspect or confirmed measles from Hawai'i Island have been reported to DOH.

Providers should consider measles in persons with fever and generalized maculopapular rash illness with cough, coryza, or conjunctivitis, and evaluate risk for measles if they reside in or visited West Hawai'i County during the month of August or have traveled internationally, or domestically to a region with a [known measles outbreak](#).

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## If you suspect a measles case:

- **Implement standard and airborne precautions immediately** including isolating the patient in a single-patient airborne infection isolation room (AIIR), or in a private closed room. Provide a face mask for the patient to wear. **Patients with suspected measles should not remain in the waiting room or other common areas of a healthcare facility.**
- **Immediately report at initial evaluation to DOH** suspected measles infections. DO NOT WAIT for laboratory results.
- **Collect specimens for testing and coordinate diagnostic testing with DOH.** Nasopharyngeal or throat swabs, serum and urine should be collected upon initial suspicion of measles. Serologic testing for measles IgM is commercially available. Nasopharyngeal or throat swabs and urine specimens can be tested by Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) at the State Laboratories Division (SLD). Disease Outbreak Control Division (DOCD) coordination and approval is required before submission of specimens to SLD.

**Clinicians should ensure all patients without evidence of immunity to measles are up to date on MMR vaccine per current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations.**

DOH's [March 11, 2025 medical advisory](#) provides additional detail on actions to take in response to a suspected case of measles that should include immediate implementation of standard and airborne precautions, report of suspicion of measles to DOH at time of initial evaluation, and collection of specimens for testing and coordination of diagnostic testing with DOH. A [checklist](#) to help healthcare providers prepare for and respond to measles is provided with this advisory.

**Immediately report to DOH** at the time measles infection is suspected. **DO NOT WAIT** for laboratory results. Measles is an URGENT CATEGORY NOTIFIABLE CONDITION and should be reported by calling:

Oahu (Disease Reporting Line) .....(808) 586-4586  
Maui District Health Office .....(808) 984-8213  
Kauai District Health Office .....(808) 241-3563  
Hawai'i District Health Office (Hilo) .....(808) 933-0912  
Hawai'i District Health Office (Kona) .....(808) 322-4877  
After hours on Oahu .....(808) 600-3625  
After hours on neighbor islands .....(800) 360-2575 (toll free)

We appreciate your assistance in protecting the health of Hawai'i's residents and visitors.

Sincerely,



Sarah K. Kemble, MD  
State Epidemiologist

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### References:

Medical Advisory Rise in Measles Activity in the United States in 2025:

<https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/files/2025/03/Medical-Advisory-Rise-In-Measles-Activity-in-the-United-States-in-2025-031125.pdf>

Medical Advisory Measles Infection Identified in Oahu International Traveler:

<https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/files/2025/04/Medical-Advisory-Measles-Infection-Identified-In-Oahu-International-Travel-4-8-25.pdf>

CDC Measles checklist for healthcare workers:

<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/downloads/checklist-healthcare-workers.pdf>